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Five-Year Sentence

British Spy Case Seen as Warning to Exiles

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The sentencing of a 28-year-old British teacher to five years "deprivation of liberty" by a Soviet court was seen today as a strong warning to anti-communist exile groups.

The teacher, Gerald Brooke, yesterday received a sentence of one year in prison and four years in a "strict regime labor colony." He allegedly confessed to charges of visiting Russia for the Popular Labor Alliance, a Russian exile group based in West Germany.

CHARGES

The charges alleged Mr. Brooke smuggled anti-Soviet materials into Moscow. It was the first official Soviet admission that an anti-communist underground exists in Russia.

The alliancee, or "NTS" as it is known by its Russia initials, is one of several anti-communist exile groups operating out of Western Europe and the U.S. They are actively engaged in funneling money, propaganda, spy equipment and, reportedly, an occasional agent or two into Eastern Europe and Russia.

MEEETING

Several leading figures connected with some of these groups were here this week for the annual observance of "Captive Nations Week," designated by Congress in recognition of the people that have been swallowed up by communism.

Some emigres viewed Mr. Brooke's "show trial" as a clear warning to exile groups operating underground networks into communist countries. They said the wide publicity given to the trial by the Soviets was intended to "scare off" anti-communist contacts inside Russia and to dry up normal channels of communication.

Others said that altho Mr. Brooke was arrested last April, the trial was purposely held off until now to coincide with the U.S. captive nations celebration.

But they all agreed that efforts to stir up unrest within the communist orbit would continue regardless of warnings from Sanitized - Approved For Release : CIA-RDP75-00149R000100510038-7

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